



November 2017 Newsletter

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

Still stuffed from our Thanksgiving dinners a few days ago, we had a good gathering attending the meeting: Kelly, Jan H., Jan K., Elenita, Alycia, Sherry, Laurie, Irina, Margy, Diane T., Karen, Mary Z, Chris.

After checking in and meeting functionaries volunteered, Chris gave the Treasurer Report for Donna, who was home not feeling well...we missed you Donna! Health to you!

Alycia discussed the MA Ballot Question coming up in 2018, seeking to repeal the rights of public access and services for the Transgender community. Repealing these rights could create legal discrimination against trans people in retail stores, banks, restaurants, libraries, government service agencies, and any other public spaces. We must not let discrimination win against a population that is already one of the most marginalized. Statistics and experiences were related.



One WILPF Calls- Since Sep, some of our chapter members have been participating on the One WILPF calls. Elenita will be presenting our 'no leader format' over the next call, and invited others to take part and join in the discussion. The next call is on Dec 14. I don't have the time, so if someone can post on our google group em, it would be appreciated.

WILPF Backgrounders – the Backgrounder drafts were discussed again, still trying to find our footing for them. Jan H presented the environmental backgrounder as a good start. She presented aspects of water shortage, global warming, environmental inequality and insecurity, our WILPF challenges, and the challenges for Cape Cod. As presented at Hawk's Nest, the idea of the backgrounders is for their inclusion in a 'welcoming' package for new members, so they can read where we stand with our three basic pillars of: environment issues, gun violence issues, and racial justice issues. The backgrounders could also serve as a good reminder occasionally to review what we are doing in these areas.



Planting Seeds

Alycia shared an experience of the seeds we plant. She recently discovered that a prayer she wrote and posted on-line 21 years ago, has been being used by many people and groups, in a variety of ways, over many years: on blogs, on pininterest artworks, in prayer circles, cancer groups, addiction/recovery groups, various churches, and many other sites. Recently, a national church group contacted to make the prayer into a choral anthem, and last month on Oct 4, the keynote speaker at a conference in Vegas, attended by over 900 from various States and countries, used it to open the conference. It was 2 days after the mass Vegas shooting, and she wanted the moment for the victims. As said at our meeting, we need to all keep planting our seeds wherever we can. We may not know if or when they have sprouted into something, but they do. Do not get discouraged. What we each do counts, even if we do not know it.



Candlelight Vigil – Thur 12/14 – 7PM

Vigil sponsored by G'mas Against Gun Violence will be held at First Baptist Church— 486 Main St – Hyannis. The vigil is in support of the anniversary of the senseless shootings of 1st graders and teachers at Sandy Hook.

Since Sandy Hook, these terrible mass shootings go on and on, with a majority of the public and even the majority of gun owners are in support of tighter background checks and better controls of large magazine ammo and auto weapons.

Chapter Social---Sherry has generously offered to host us for a social gathering at her home. She needs us to let her know which date works best. **Please respond by Dec 15th, to: sherrieb58@gmail.com**

The dates to choose from are: Jan 6 – 13 or 20th.

These are Saturday dates and work best for her, but is open to other options.

**Gender Violence
Days of Action**

Nov 25 – Dec 10: Although individuals took part in some Cape events, as a group we didn't do so well in creating an event or events for this important period. As we talked about at Hawk's Nest, and at several meetings this year, we need to get more involved and have more public presence for WILPF, as a group and with other groups.

Margy reminded us to find the way to create a monthly vigil of some sort we can be a part of, as WILPF or with others. We need theme, place, times.

Conflict Resolution Consensus:

Diane A., Karen, Donna and Elenita have volunteered to be a committee to resolve how we go about resolving our internal group conflicts. Hopefully, we won't have any conflicts to resolve, with patience, understanding, listening, and being open to each other's perspectives with respect for each other.

Practicium at U.N. – Discussion of Women's Equality

It is our hope to raise funds to send someone, possibly a motivated college student, to this meeting. The cost is \$ 1400. Chris and Irina are reviewing what can be done, including a possible 'Go Fund Me' type posting, if we can figure out the banking account process we need to do it with.

IWD Day --- March 8, 2018, at Cultural Center, S. Yarmouth

We've dedicated this year, and possible future years, to the 'Year of the Child', and how our pillars: environment, gun violence, racial justice, affect children. At IWD this year, we will be honoring Lauren Wolk and her book, "Wolf Hollow", along with the current winners of the Jane Addams book reviews. We are acquiring a set of this year's books and will use their themes within our program and performances. The Harwich Junior Theatre will be doing an act from Lauren's Wolf Hollow book, and some of Alycia's children teaching stories may be used in some way. We hope to involve kids in this year's event, as much as possible.

Today's children already have a much greater understanding and support for women's and racial equality, the environment, gun and violence issues, acceptance and respect of others. They have this understanding because they have been grown with these seeds that have been planted over the last few generations. The seeds have taken hold and are growing. We need to continue their cultivation however we can help.

Memberships... Elenita, Laurie, and myself are putting together better language for the details of our membership dues for newsletter inclusion, as they have changed in the last year, regarding National WILPH needs and our local options. We'll post it separately on our group email soon, and then have it for the monthly newsletters thereafter. Obviously, any donations beyond membership dues are always welcome and helpful to support what we do.



Mothers of the World

Every woman is mother, to every child of another.

When a child cries, the hearts of women weep.

When a child laughs, the hearts of women smile.

When a child is sick, the hearts of women feel ill.

When a child is hungry, the hearts of women pang.

When a child is happy, the hearts of women rejoice.

With children or not, young in women's years or not,

Every woman is mother, to every child of each other.

Protect the Circle of Children

Alycia (Longriver) Davis, 1998

>**Women In Politics** - Becky King joined us for meeting, and said she is strongly considering running for Rep. Bill Keatings seat. Paula Schnepf has also been running for town government in Barnstable, and has made it to a run-off stage. It is good to see women running for political seats, and more importantly, for them to get elected. The U.S. has so far to go in fixing the gender-political balance in this country. We are far behind other countries in diverse politics. Ireland has a conservative gay Prime Minister whose father was born in India. England has a female Prime Minister, as do some other nations. The U.S. seems stuck on about 20% of Congress being female. It is not enough.

Most people want to see equality and economic fairness for all, inclusion opportunity for all, a healthy environment, clean energy, child and elder caring services and protections...none of this can happen with an 80% male dominated Congress. During the recent Senate health care attempts to push through a GOP Health Care change that would have pushed millions off of health care, it was Republican women Senators that were instrumental in blocking it from happening. A balanced or near-balance Congress of men/women, House & Senate, would produce a totally different focus of laws and budgets. Men will have strong considerations for military spending, whereas women will consider families in decision making.

“SIMPLY DIAMOND” – Saturday, October 28, 7:00PM

Independent House is sponsoring a Neil Diamond Tribute at Barnstable High School. Tickets are \$ 25 in advance, and \$ 30 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Independent House or check on-line event to purchase on net.

Solitary Man, I’m A Believer, many others to sing-along with, especially Sweet Caroline. Should be a fun event.

WILPF Cape Cod Branch

To become a member, or get newsletter, fill out below:

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Address:

Town:

_____ ST _____ Zip _____

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Wilpf Membership includes International & U.S. Sections, plus Cape Cod Branch. \$ 35

- 1. Wilpf membership \$ _____
 - 2. Wilpf Newsletter Cape Cod Branch
(member sliding scale \$5-50) \$ _____
 - 3. Non-member newsletter
(newsletter only: \$ 25) \$ _____
 - 4. Life Members, current \$ _____
(optional annual donation to U.S. Wilpf)
- Total Enclosed \$ _____

We will send the newsletter electronically unless you request a paper copy. Your contribution supports all the work of the Cape Cod branch, including production of the monthly newsletter.

Thank-You! Come try a meeting before joining:

4th Tuesday monthly, Harwich Comm Center, 100 Oak St, Harwich Room 4 Potluck 6pm Meeting 6:30-8:30pm

Please send form & check payable to: WILPF

Send to: WILPF % Laurie Gates
38 Dusty Miller Lane
S. Chatham, 02659

www.wilpfcapecod.org

WILPF

Women's International League
For Peace & Freedom
(founded in 1915)

We are a group of women and men who work to create justice and peace locally, nationally and internationally. WILPF envisions transformed world at peace, where there is racial, social and economic justice for all people everywhere... a world in which the interconnecting web of life is acknowledged and celebrated, and human societies are designed and organized for self-governance and sustainable existence. In pursuit of these goals we educate ourselves and others, take action against injustice, and nourish one another.

*Do no harm, in thought,
word or deed, with
respect for the earth and
for all people.*

